

LOUIS WINDMÜLLER & ROELKER,  
*Commission Merchants,*  
NEW YORK.

It was naturally the work of many years with the owner, who is a gentleman of means & without family.

I beg to add that Mr. Durr does not particularly desire that your Institute should take charge of his whole collection, if this should not be found convenient but he desires to have those pictures which he values most in a safe place during his proposed absence.

I may add that the idea of offering the collection to you, suggested itself to the writer, who is a lover of art in consequence of a recent visit to your city, where he visited your collection.  
Very respectfully  
J. Fred Roelker



Roelker, Alfred

(221)

New York Feb 3. 1874

Recd Feb 4. 1874,

The owner of the Paintings  
mentioned in last letter is.

Mr Louis Diere.

Has sent a Catalogue.

LOUIS WINDMÜLLER & ROELKER,  
Commission Merchants,  
NEW YORK.

February 5, 1874.

J<sup>rs</sup> Mass Lead, Esq,  
Curator Corcoran gallery  
of Art  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir

In reply to your  
favor of yesterday I beg  
to say that the owner of  
the paintings in question  
is Mr. Louis Diere of this  
city. - As to the size of  
the pictures, there is a  
number of large ones  
but by far the greater  
number are cabinet  
pieces. - An idea of  
what the collection  
contains, may be gathered  
from a Catalogue which  
was published last winter  
when an Exhibition of it  
for a benevolent purpose  
took place & which I send  
to you. - The names



of the painters mentioned  
in the Catalogue are  
authenticated in many  
cases by both the signature  
or monogram, as well as  
by the distinct character  
of the Artists. Sometimes  
the distinct character  
of design color handling  
sufficiently authenticates  
the work. Some may be  
good old school copies,  
in a few cases the names  
of such Artists, which  
best illustrated the  
character of the works  
were taken in order to assign  
to them their place in  
the period to which they  
belong.

The Collection has been  
formed mostly from  
such old Collections in  
Europe as well as this  
country, which bore in  
themselves, proofs of genuine  
(new.)



221 1/2  
Orrigle Jane Mrs.  
Georgetown S. C.  
Nov 16. 1873

Offers a portrait of  
Chief Justice Shippin  
by Stewart. for sale.

✓

GEORGE CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Return, if not called for in 5 days.



Some starting point of comparison or analogy as to the value of such a work. I believe

Stewarts are quite rare now.

My sister has a beautiful one of my grandmother Mrs Lee but then like most of Stewart only the faces fully finished the draperies are merely designed as was often the case with his portraits of women -

I trust your health continues good and your eye I hope no longer troubles you - With my love to Miss Eustis believe me dear Mr Corcoran  
Faithfully yours  
Jane Purgle

221 1/2

Georgetown  
South Carolina



Nov: 16.

White House

Dear Mr. Corcoran

Having heard that you intend founding a National Gallery in Washington I venture to write in the hope that I may induce you to become the purchaser of a very valuable portrait by the celebrated Stewart of Chief Justice Shippen of Pa. my great grandfather.



It has been reckoned one of  
Stewart's very best paintings  
and is in all respects in perfect  
preservation - the wonderful  
flesh tints being as well preserved  
- red and as fresh as if painted  
yesterday - I should like it  
to belong to a public institution  
safe from all the risks and  
chances of private ownership,  
in the South - Chief Justice  
Shippin was the last Chief  
Justice under the crown and  
Father of the beautiful &  
unhappy Mrs Arnold who was  
my Grandmother's sister as I

have say you know from Bancroft's  
history of that period -

I am quite at a loss  
to fix a price upon this por-  
-trait - The Rutledges sold  
one by Stewart of Gen<sup>l</sup> Washing-  
ton for \$1200 - but it was a  
full length: as a painting  
it did not compare with  
the one I have; which however  
is a Portrait, as I think they used  
to call the  $\frac{3}{4}$  sitting length -

Should you take the  
matter into consideration  
perhaps you would be so  
good as to furnish me with



(222)

Pinnigle. Jane,

Georgetown D.C. Feb. 1. 1874

Feb. 5. 1874.

Rec'd Feb. 5-

Arrival of picture acknowledged

Has sent picture of Chief  
Justice Shippen by Stewart  
address to the Gallery.



Georgetown  
South Carolina

1<sup>st</sup> Feb: 1874

Mr. Corcoran

Dear Sir

In compliance  
with your request to send to  
Washington my picture of Chief  
Justice Shippin by Stewart, and  
trusting that the Committee may  
find my report of it in all respects  
accurate, I have had it carefully  
packed and my son will carry it  
to Charleston tomorrow by steamer  
and deliver it himself to the Express  
addressed to "The Corcoran Gallery of Art  
Washington"  
"D. C."

I hope the affair may terminate  
to our mutual satisfaction and in

Faithfully yours

Jane Pringle

P.S. Please have the receipt of picture ~~from~~ <sup>from</sup> ~~her~~ <sup>her</sup>



McLellan, G. F. (223)  
Feb. 5. 1874,

Feb. 9/74,

Acknowledges receipt of  
Ticket,

Washington D.C. Feb. 5. 74  
Dear Sir,

I gratefully acknowl-  
edge the receipt of the in-  
vitation to attend the opening of  
the Leonard Art Gallery, and  
the ticket of admission.

Very respectfully, yours,  
G. F. McLellan

A. Hyde, Esq.,  
Secretary,



modelled for the last six months.

I am willing to repair one of the damaged  
plaster casts and submit it to the judgement  
of any competent artist you may select.

I am Sir very respectfully  
Carl Stierlin

W. W. Corcoran Esq  
Washington D. C.

Stierlin Carl,

(222)

Feb 6/74

Feb 5. 1874

Offer his services to  
repair plaster casts.

to be on Feb. 5



Office. Treasurer of the United States.

Loan Division

Washington. Febr. 5. 1874

Sir

Having read in the paper that a lot of plaster casts for your art-gallery has arrived in a damaged condition I would respectfully offer my services to you as a competent artist to repair these plaster casts without injury. If this work be intrusted to incompetent hands, the artistic value of the whole cast might be spoiled. I would state that I am sculptor, have frequented the royal Academy of fine Arts at Berlin Prussia for 8 years, while one of the instructors was Professor Christian Rauch who made the bust of Humboldt for your gallery. I am pupil of Gustav Blaeser, at present Professor on the Academy of fine arts at Berlin Prussia; as reference about my standing as an artist I would mention J. L. Smith, Imeyer Esq. superintendent of the "Potomac Terra Cotta works" D. C. for whom I have



Feb 9<sup>th</sup> 1874.

W. W. Boreman Esq.,

Respected Sir,

I must beg that you will pardon the liberty I take in thus intruding for a few moments on your valuable time. Having seen by the papers that you are collecting valuable paintings for your magnificent "Gallery of Art" the thought occurred to me that perhaps you would purchase from us some very valuable paintings, & two small pieces of statuary, which were bequeathed to this Institution by "James H. Behan". The paintings were bought regardless of price by Mr. Behan during his visit to Europe in the year 1850. We are reluctantly compelled to dispose of them to raise funds to enlarge our Hospital.

I have the honor to remain with sentiments of the highest esteem

Most respectfully

Wm. W. Boreman

St. Vincent's Hospital

Wm. W. Boreman

Wm. W. Boreman

Schedule of Paintings

1. Judith after the murder of Holofernes 28 in by 40  
said to be an original by Albrecht Dürer 1621
2. Scene in a Flemish Inn (Rubens) 17 in by 22

over





3. Fine eggshell / want of drapery / is as is  
in the work of Carlo Delli small
4. A very charming copy of Guido's  
Beatrice since 28. probably 40
5. also Guido's "Hope" very fine.
6. The Sibyl holding an open parchment piece -  
telling the birth of the Virgin very fine is  
is an original

We have also two small pieces of eggshell -  
statuaries

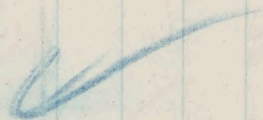


(225)  
Isadore, Sister Superior,  
St. Vincent's Hospital,  
Norfolk Va.  
Feb. 9. 1874,  
Feb. 10. 1874,

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Offers six Pictures  
for sale.

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Colburn

Mrs R.

(226)

Feb 9. 1874,

Feb 9. 1874,

Requests permission to be  
allowed to place two pictures  
on exhibition.

✓  
Permission given March 10/74  
and copy of Regulations sent.

Rec'd Feb 9/74

Rec'd

Washington D.C.  
No 533 Fourteenth St.  
February 9<sup>th</sup> 1874

Sir:

Having been informed that the  
trustees of the "Corcoran Gallery" of Art  
propose allowing Artists the privilege  
of exhibiting their pictures in the  
side rooms of said gallery, so soon  
as suitable arrangements can be  
made, I would, therefore, respect-  
fully request permission to be al-  
lowed to place on exhibition two  
of my own paintings, one being a  
fancy piece, but, at the same time,  
consisting of portraits of my two  
children, on canvas 25X36 inches,  
the other a fruit piece, on canvas  
29X34 inches.  
Hoping to have a favorable con-



-sideration of my application, and  
to be promptly informed of the ult-  
-mate decision of the committee,  
I am

Very respectfully, &c.

Mrs R. Colburn

Artist.

Wm McLeod. Esq.

Curator of the

Corcoran Gallery of Art.



(221)  
Avery, J. P.

New York Feb 10. 1874,

Recd Feb 11/74

In reply to a letter with  
regard to a collection of paintings  
offered to the gallery,  
Considers them worthless.  
Encloses letter upon the  
subject from Clarence Cook,

Recd answered

Feb. 13/74

S. P. AVERY

88 Fifth Ave.



ART ROOMS

near 14 St.

New-York Feb 10<sup>th</sup> 1874

Mr Wm MacLeod.

Dear Sir:

I have your favor of the 4<sup>th</sup>  
and apologize for not answering it  
before - I hesitated to do so for  
the matter is rather a delicate  
one, and I had not carefully  
examined the collection, but having  
seen them from time to time as  
they were picked up at the auctions  
I was so indifferent to them that  
I really was not competent to give  
an impartial opinion, therefore I  
have tried to get such information  
as would possibly be of service to  
you. The enclosed note will I  
think cover the ground / but as



it was written to assist me in giving  
a judgment I may not be entirely  
justified in sending it) Mr C. is  
one of our most intelligent critics and  
does not write upon a subject of which  
he is not entirely competent to give an  
opinion, and in this matter I am  
sure that he is right from all I  
know and have heard on the subject.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art of  
which I am a trustee - has impudent  
to receive the same collection, ~~and~~  
declined, alleging want of room - and  
then had to decline any of them because  
we did not want them. Institutions  
kindred to ours are constantly annoyed  
with applications from persons who for  
purpose of selling or for vanity desire  
to loan works of art - from experience  
we find that in 99 cases out of 100  
the things offered are worthless, and  
we have to be constantly on the watch  
to prevent inferior things from getting  
an endorsement which an exhibition

in an established gallery of art is supposed to give  
Very truly yours  
J. M. Schuyler



specimens of the paintings there  
namely they spatter. The exhibition  
was to my mind a melancholy,  
a disheartening, comment on the  
ignorance of the general commu-  
nity in which it took place  
for such a collection would not  
have been tolerated in London  
or Paris. I do not want as  
a proof of this ignorance, the  
comments of the newspapers for  
they even then they praised  
the collection and treated it  
as a genuine thing. For the  
newspapers are always very  
tender to a charity show, and  
will say almost anything to  
help it. I did not write a  
word about it. The article you  
saw was not mine. My charity  
could not have collected such  
a multitude of eyes. I was  
sorry that the article was  
short but its value may  
be tested by the fact that

227  
My dear Mr. Avery, I did see the  
collection of pictures you refer to -  
visiting it several times, and going  
over it very carefully. A more  
worthless collection I never saw,  
anywhere; there was not a picture  
in it that I would have accepted  
as a gift: I could not have hung  
it up in my house, and, certainly,  
I never could have sold it.

I believe that on the opinion  
of every disinterested person who,  
like myself, went carefully over  
the collection. As for their au-  
thenticity - though I gave no  
credit to the assertions of the  
people who were concerned in the  
enterprise - I profess to know  
nothing. I judge the pictures  
by their intrinsic worthlessness,  
and by their inferiority to good



it treated some pictures which were made  
copies by some home-painter apprentice, &  
printed by driver as if they were pictures by  
the master hand whose name they bore.

It would be in my humble opinion a  
real misfortune to have these pictures accepted  
for exhibition by any Institution & authority.  
The Calverton Art Gallery would make a very  
poor beginning by adopting such an in-  
position, and when the cause of Chantry did

not call for silence as to its real charac-  
ter, it would be the duty of every instructed  
person to expose its impudent pretensions.  
And it would be a duty very easily  
performed.

Yours very truly

Clarence Cook

Feb. 11. '74



Hubbard, J. P. (228)  
Feb 12. 1874,  
Feb 13. 1874,

Acknowledges receipt  
of tickets,

Church of the Strangers,  
~~Washington, D. C.~~ Georgetown

Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 1874

Mr A. Hyde. Secy

I have to thank you for  
your polite invitation to myself  
& family to be present at the open-  
ing of the Corcoran Gallery of Art,  
& also your ticket of admission to  
myself personally.

Owing to it's being wrongly directed,  
it did not reach me in time  
for us to avail ourselves of it.

Following upon this delay in receiving  
it, my absence in New York for  
ten days, has prevented an  
earlier acknowledgement of your  
kindness.

To the Trustees of Very respectfully  
The Corcoran Gallery of John P. Hubbard.  
Art.



(229)

Thayer. Sanford

Syracuse Feb 13/74

Answered Feb 20. 1874.

Proposes to ship a portrait  
of C. L. Elliott to the Gallery  
at his own expense.

Asks if it shall be  
shipped.

✓



Syracuse, Feb. 13. 1874.

Mr. W. W. Corcoran,

Dear Sir, You will pardon this boldness, or "yanku impudence" in me when I tell you why I thus interrupt you.

I have read some little act of your disposition of your art treasures, and since I have a half length portrait, life size, of my lamented tutor C. L. Elliott, I propose, with your consent, to ship the same to your address, at my own expense of course, for your inspection, in the hope that you may feel disposed to purchase and place it in good and appropriate company where it can have a permanent resting place.

For several years past I have been greatly disabled by inflammatory rheumatism, and I find myself under the torture of pecuniary embarrassment, and in some of my despairing moments I have wondered whether this effort with you might not have the welcome result of raising the veil of dispendency, that I might see a few more years of usefulness.

Shall I bother you by sending the picture? Your prompt refusal will break no bones, nor bonds of friendship. A drowning man's struggles will soon end whether he catches any straws or not.

Very respectfully yours &c.

Sanford Thayer.

P.S. Pardon me if I say that the Widow Elliott together with his many friends have pronounced this portrait the best ever painted of the eminent artist.



Treasury, Secty of. (230)

Feb 14. 1874,

Feb 14. 1874,

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Collectors at New York  
and Georgetown have recd  
instructions to admit on  
case containing Majolica  
Vase. free of duty!

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✓



W. J.

Treasury Department,

February 14<sup>th</sup>, 1874.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> instant, to the Secretary, requesting the admission, free of duties and charges, of one case containing a majolica vase, as per bill of lading herewith returned,

imported for the use of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., in the steamship "Algeria," at the port of New York, from Liverpool.

The Collector of Customs at that port has been instructed accordingly and to forward said case to Georgetown, D.C., without examination; the Collector at which latter port has also been instructed to allow the examination thereof to be made at the said Gallery, as further requested by you.

I am, very respectfully,

J. P. Huntington

Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Wm MacLeod, Esq.,

Curator, Corcoran Gallery of Art,  
Washington, D.C.